

"The supreme and controlling aim of missionary work is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all men as their divine Saviour and to persuade them to become his disciples; to gather these disciples into Christian churches which shall be self-supporting, self-propagating, and self-governing; to share with these churches in the evangelizing of their countrymen and of the world, and in bringing to bear on all human life the spirit and principles of Christ."

WHERE'ER THE SUN

*I listened & I watched
Monday night as 3 thin men
of mission candidates... some women
then men as usual - stood & turned
and began to sing -
"Jesus shall reign"
And my mind went back to
Sunday morning*

I listened one day as I have listened thousands of times on a Sunday morning to a little congregation singing *then morning hymn.*
There were some important differences.
a hymn. But this Sunday was different. We were behind the bamboo curtain in Communist China. There was a communist soldier sitting in one of the pews, watching, his mustard-yellow uniform conspicuous against the ^{faded} blue clothes of the congregation. The pastor's brother-in-law was in jail. A good part of his congregation had fled when the communists took the city. The rest were gathered here in the little church to worship God, faithful and a little fearful, not knowing what darkness the future held for them.

But this is the hymn they sang, and as they sang, fear left the room.

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Both his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more."

Didn't they know any better, these simple Christians? Didn't they know that the kingdom was shrinking, and the Church retreating, and Christians shaking at the rise of a rough new conquering faith? If the communists could take China, why not the whole world, and where then would their Jesus reign?

It takes faith to sing that hymn.
but still these Chinese Christians sang. They sang of people and realms of every tongue. They sang of every *They say in faith, as in their faith they made that the* *and in their singing they not only proved*
their faith, but also linked themselves in faith and fellowship *hymn come true - for Jesus did reign there in hearts that worshiped him, and not all the darkening shadows and their could take Him from the throne they made for Him in their hearts.*
(over)

it takes faith to say that hymn. It took faith for those ^{three} ~~three~~
~~ages of new missions~~ ~~of candidates~~ ~~of people~~ - more women than men as usual - and going out into
a world as black as Dr. Porthick had just pictured it - it took faith
to stand up and say, as they did - that Jesus would reign ~~at~~ ^{that} that whole
black world.

But it takes no more faith to say it today than it did to
write it 230 years ago. In fact it is a good deal easier - what
did Isaac Watts mean back in 1719 -

And in the next 70 yrs. their mission was a failure -

So Xdom settled back to listen contentedly while some preachers
told them - "It is useless to try to convert savages"

Only one little denomination cared about the world. I'm glad you
paid them a tribute yesterday. They were the Moravians. They were the
fanatics - the fanatic fringe. They had the audacity

Now ~~Today~~ it is ^{an} almost obvious fact. Follow the sun out the world today -
try to find a center -

with an Englishman, the author of the hymn, a man who had lived two and a half centuries before them and on the other side of the world. There is no race or space or time in Christ.

fact is that Watts

But surely it takes more faith to sing it today, than it did to write it 230 yrs. ago. ^
~~It took the same faith to write that hymn in England in 1719 as it did to sing it in China in 1950. What did Isaac Watts mean, talking about Jesus' reigning around the world? Weren't Europe and America enough of a kingdom for Jesus? There were two worlds then, a heathen world and a Christian world, and the two didn't mix, except for business and politics. ^ The church: It had its own responsibilities for its own people and in its own ~~own~~ territories, and perhaps for a few conquered savages, *on the fringe.* There were only eight Protestant foreign missionaries in the whole world! 1 And in the next 70 yrs. their mission was a failure. *It really took faith, then, to sing "Jesus shall reign where'er..." Today, it has come true...*~~

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Seventy years later a cobbler put an open Bible in front of a patched-leather map of the world. His Bible, there in the Psalm that set Isaac Watts to singing, said:

"He shall have dominion from sea to sea,
And from the river unto the ends of the earth...
She shall spare the poor and needy,
And shall save the souls of the needy...
His name shall be continued as long as the sun...
Let the whole earth be filled with his glory." 2

but his map said something ~~different~~ else. William Carey, the Baptist cobbler, figured roughly back there in 1792 that there were 731,000,000 people in the world. Only 174,000,000 were Christians (Roman Catholics 100,000,000,

1. The Danish-Dalle mission to India. ~~The~~ Anglican and Presbyterian missionaries of that time were what would now be called home missionaries.
2. Psalm 72: 8,13,17,19

Follow the sun and the world today - you can do it. There's or 5-5-5
eye as King. You can't do it. Even when no organized churches, other business, tired any with yours
X's & forbidden faith - even here, too! One, 2 - a handful, perhaps only foreigners, but they are there, and they belong

to the oldest and strongest and most wide-spread fellowship
the world has ever known, the people of God, the Church of
Jesus Christ.

There are 700,000,000 here. There are as many here in Japan as in 1900.

There are almost as many Christians today as there were
people in the world of William Carey! One-third of the world
is Christian—about 700,000,000 out of a total population of
~~2,100,000,000~~ 2,100,000,000:

Roman Catholics	331,000,000
Protestants	207,000,000
Orthodox	142,000,000
Copts	10,000,000 1

But don't glory too much in these global statistics. After

all, the world has been growing too, and only God, who looks on

But wherever 2 or 3 are gathered together in His name, there is Christ in
the heart, knows how many real Christians there are. More the midst
of them.

significant than numbers is "the great new fact of our time,"

the fact that at last and for the first time in history, Protestants
we have a world-wide Church with a world-wide mission.

It is not an American Church with a mission to China, or
an English or Canadian Church with a mission to the South Seas.

Too many people are still thinking in those terms, but Christianity
is no made-in-America product. And it cannot be stamped, "For
Export use Only." The Church and its mission are both world-wide,
and they cut both ways.

Suppose the Church is wiped out of China. Suppose it is
wiped off the face of the globe except for one little part, say,
the tiny peninsula of Korea. If that should happen, Robert H.

1. World Christian Handbook, World Dominion Press, London, 1949,
p.

On that mission we sent 75,000 missionaries abroad in the 100 years from 1833 to 1933; and for every missionary who had ever been sent to the field, there were 110 national Christians in the strong young churches that have made us a world church. I don't know any record to compare with that in the history of Christendom. For every missionary--110 new Christians in the Church. Do you know what the comparison is in America. Instead of 1 to 110, its about 1 to 2; it takes 54 American Christians a whole year to bring one new convert to Jesus Christ.

Lenox, The Heath

But before we turn from this rapid survey of the Mission, notice two weaknesses:

1. It is badly divided: break down that grand total of 700 million, and it is not quite as magnificent as it sounds:

Roman Catholic	331,000,000	Luth.	90,000,000
Protestant	206,000,000	Bapt.	25,000,000
Orthodox	114,000,000	Meth.	23,000,000
Copt	10,000,000	Presb.	22,000,000
		Angl.	20-25,000,000

2. It is badly out of balance:

Of the 700 million Christians, about half are crowded into the tiny continent of Europe, a continent with a great past but a doubtful future. While Asia, the largest continent, holding half of all the people in the world has only one-tenth as many Christians. In fact the churches of 7 New York cities, would hold all the church members in Asia.

(N.Y.C. church members: 4,245,000

Asia: 23,700,000 Rom. Cath; 4,200,000 Prot. church members)

This is how unbalanced the world's Christian population is:

Europe:	1 in 1 is a church member;	1 in 4.5 is Prot.
N. Amer:	1 in 2	1 in 3
Africa:	1 in 12	1 in 33
L. Am.	1 in 1.5	1 in 120
Asia	1 in 100	1 in 386

Jesus may reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run--at least there are Christian all around the world, but on that basis, the sun is spending too much time in Europe and North America; *There is still* and shamefully ~~skipping~~ ^{disregarding} Asia, and Africa, and Latin America.

So much for the survey, now for the obstacles. Come on in out of the sunshine, and look at the shadows, for a while.

When I first went to China I ~~was soon~~ ^{became quickly} convinced that the greatest single obstacle blocking the World Christian Mission was the Chinese language. In this I found myself in agreement with at least one early missionary who declared disgustedly, "The Chinese language was invented by the devil to keep the gospel out of China." I was wrong, of course. The devil has a better invention to keep the gospel out of China--that is sin, and I would be a poor Christian

if I gave four lectures on obstacles facing the World Mission of the Church, without pointing out that whatever other names I give these obstacles, there is one stubborn, root factor in them all, namely the sin of the human heart in rebellion against its God.

But the history of Missions has conditioned us to think of obstacles to the spread of the faith in two general categories:

1. the geographical and political barriers thrown up by hostile governments or tribes to prevent the free entrance of the gospel into lands never penetrated and still closed to the faith. That is the first classical obstacle: the closed land, the unreached field. Afghanistan, Tibet, Nepal, Outer Mongolia. The unreached heart of South America--the greatest stretch of unevangelized territory left in the world, stretching from the valleys of the Amazon to the heights of the Andes. The lure of these lands to the Christian missionary is like the lure of Mt. Everest and the unclimbed peaks of the Himalayas to the mountain climber. But the frontier is vanishing in Christian geography as well as in secular geography. There aren't many unreached lands left. And there are more unreached people outside them now, than in them. The day of the missionary explorer and pioneer is just about over.

2. The second classical obstacle in mission history is the religious barrier thrown up against the impact of a new faith, Xty, ~~against~~ by the ancient, ethnic religions: Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism, and Hinduism.

I do not want to minimize the continuing power of these ancient faiths, but I cannot believe they are any longer the major obstacles blocking the Christian World Mission. In the first place, they are dying faiths. I cannot remember talking to a single really convinced Buddhist or Confucianist in all my work in China; and the communist government is so contemptuous of them that they have dropped Confucian classics from the school curriculum without a voice raised in their behalf, and they invited only one Buddhist representative to join the Pople's Political Consultative Conf.

In the 2nd: what vitality they have is not religious - it is (1) political - Budd. Hinduism, (2) Superstitious

It seems quite apparent, therefore, that the classical obstacles to the World Mission are no longer the major blocks to the triumph of the Christian faith, with one possible exception, which I will note. The startling fact facing any missionary today as he takes stock of ~~the major obstacles~~ his chances is this: our major obstacles today are of our own making. Every one of them, if you will allow me some latitude of definition, had its starting point within the Christian faith. The four major obstacles of which I am thinking are these:

- Islam
- Roman Catholicism
- Communism
- Ourselves

ISLAM

Islam deserves more attention than I am going to give it. It is the exception that I noted above, for it is one of the classical obstacles. But it is not one of the ancient, ethnic heathen faiths. It is younger than Christianity, a reversion, a corruption, a Christian heresy. "There are only three things to your faith that I cannot accept," said the Moslem Imam of Ngaondere to an African missionary:

- 1. That there is an image of God in man
- 2. That Jesus is the Son of God.
- 3. That he died on the cross.

There are just two comments that I can make here about the obstacle of Islam:

1. The familiar comment--it is the most impenetrable obstacle we face. Moslem work is the hardest work in the world. There are converts by the millions from other faiths. Converts from Islam are rarer than diamonds.

a. Missionary from N. Africa, 16 yrs., 2 converts; switched to black Africa, 100 converts the first year.

b. Arabia, 11 million people, 40 Christians. Forbidden to speak openly of Christianity

An old missionary to Algeria, says key verse of Moslem missions: "We have fished all night and caught nothing..." And Russ Stevenson adds, "The missionary to the Moslems must leave his stop-watch and adding machine at home. The world of Islam is a hard, hard rock blocking the progress of the gospel.

2. Most people forget there is another side to Islam: its own missionary side. It alone of the old classic faiths is a missionary religion.

a. How can we forget that in 7th century the sword of Islam slipped out of its desert scabbard and slashed away and destroyed one-half of the Christian church of its time. Egypt was then 90% Christian. Today it is 90% Moslem. Did you know there is a Moslem country in Xn Europe. Not Turkey. Albania: 69% Moslem.

b. But don't relax and say, "That was 1300 years ago." Listen: the Mohammedans are taking Africa away from us. Some time ago it was reported that while Xns in 200 years made 6 million converts in Africa; the Moslems made 20,000,000. We're proud of converting one-fifth of Africa to Christ; the Moslem have converted one-third of it. In Sierra Leone, one of our more successful mission fields, they say that forevery pagan who turns Xn, there are 10 who turn Moslem. Even in China, which we have been trying to win for several hundred years longer than the Moslems, they outnumber us 5 to 1,